

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5682

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As of February 17, 2009

**Title:** An act relating to the realignment of transportation regions.

**Brief Description:** Requiring the secretary of transportation to realign the transportation regions.

**Sponsors:** Senators Haugen and Marr.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 2/16/09.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Staff:** Amanda Cecil (786-7429)

**Background:** The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is organized administratively into six regions that are generally separated along county boundaries. In addition to the six regions, there is a seventh office that functions similarly to a region office. This office is responsible for delivering major urban transportation projects in the Central Puget Sound area.

The boundaries of these regions are determined by WSDOT.

**Summary of Bill:** The WSDOT regions are realigned from six to five regions. The newly aligned regions include:

- the Olympic Region, containing Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Mason, Pacific, Lewis, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, and Kitsap counties and the portion of Thurston County west of Interstate 5;
- the Northwest Region, containing San Juan, Island, Whatcom, and Skagit counties and the portion of Snohomish County that includes and is north of Smokey Point;
- the Puget Sound Region, containing King and Pierce counties and the portion of Thurston County that includes and is east of Interstate 5 and the portion of Snohomish County that is south of Smokey Point;
- the Central Region, containing Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Yakima, and Klickitat counties; and

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- the Eastern Region, containing Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Spokane, Adams, Whitman, Franklin, Benton, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin counties.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** CON: Inefficiencies are created in the way the regional planning council reports to the regions by splitting Thurston County.

OTHER: WSDOT presented suggestions for how a regional consolidation could be better aligned.

**Persons Testifying:** CON: Lon Wyrick, Thurston Regional Planning Council.

OTHER: David Dye, WSDOT.